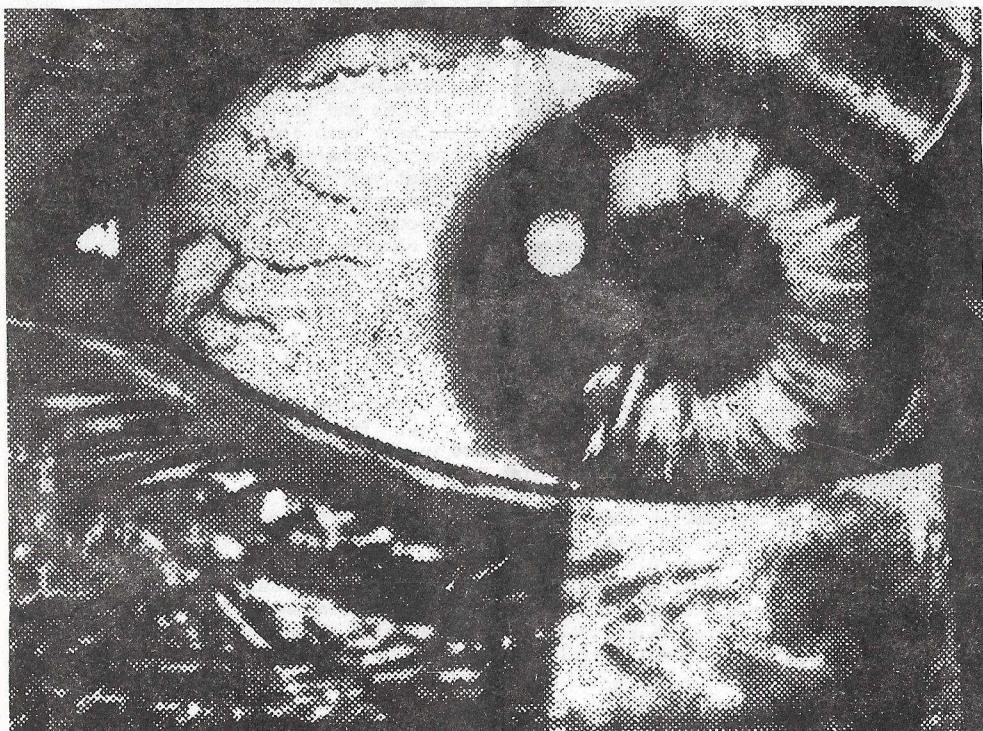


.YORCON.....

PROGRESS REPORT NO.3



30th British Easter SF Convention

Guest of Honour Richard Cowper

YORCON

THE PROGRESS REPORT

Any business man who has contemplated running a Science Fiction Convention might well have decided to wait for another year as, looming like a black hole (absorbing potential con-goers) we have **WORLDCON** (that should satisfy P. Weston). Nevertheless there seem to be plenty of customers rolling along to sign in (see later on in this very PR). Some indeed have stated that they are coming to YORCON only. Without wishing to plunge into the great 'Worldcon: Is it Worth It?' debate (since I am going and sort of looking forward to it I'll reserve judgement until afterwards), I can appreciate why.

At their 1978 rate of growth it would not have been long before Eastercons not only used places like the Heathrow Hotel, but filled them. By that time, despite the social value of fan-rooms and the efforts of the organisers, much of their old atmosphere would have been lost. It may, of course, still happen. However, this year we can cheerfully guarantee that we shall have a human-sized con. Judging by past years, our present growth-rate predicts a final membership of four to five hundred. Since this is a hundred or so below the DRAGONARA's maximum-in-comfort level, we should fit nicely. John Hepworth and the management have already guaranteed that we can have the whole hotel and its facilities; also almost all of the con can be accommodated on one floor. These points will be appreciated by all those who played hide-and-seek at Coventry or spent most of SKYCON escaping the young executives by hiding in the ~~cellar~~ fan-room. At the moment, while things are still in a fluid state, it appears that we shall be able to present a programme and fringe events at least comparable to any of the six conventions I have attended. Dave Pringle has several new programme items already worked out, which will be detailed in Progress Report 4. The main difference, however, is that it should be easier to take in programme events, or have comfortable alternatives should one wish to leave them.

That is not to say we won't have problems. Heaven alone knows what they will be, but everyone seems to have them. We can guarantee the above, but other things, un-nameable things, could go wrong. To be perfectly frank we have already had problems with films. A new agreement reached by most major distributors would seem to black everything within two miles of a cinema except affiliated film festivals. For a while this seemed doom-laden, but Carol Gregory has found several alternatives and everything seems fine again.

We can't promise you the greatest Con you've ever been to; you decide that, but we can promise that we've spent over a year working at it, and the hotel seems exceptional.

Best wishes for the New Year,

MIKE DICKINSON

30th British Easter SF Convention

APRIL 13-16th 1979

Hotel Information

Hotel booking forms are being sent out with this Progress Report, and it is essential that they are returned with deposits, before March 1st if you intend staying in the Dragonara, the convention hotel. Forms should be returned to:

Alan Dorey, 20 Hermitage Woods Crescent, St. John's, WOKING, Surrey,
GU21 1UE.

- ** All deposits (that is £10 per person irrespective of whether single or double rooms are required) must be paid by cheque or postal order made out to LADBROKE DRAGONARA - LEEDS. Please do not make them out to Yorcon, since this will involve us in additional administration.
- ** The deposit will cover the whole convention, so whether you are staying just two nights or three nights, it will just be the flat-rate £10 per person.
- ** The banquet dinner tickets are also being allocated as and from this Progress Report. A full menu will be made available in the next Progress Report, but speaking from personal experience, the food is of superior quality.
- ** Confirmation of bookings received by March 1st will be sent out with the last Progress Report, so you won't be hearing until mid-March. We anticipate being able to include all those wishing accommodation in the Dragonara, so there is no question of late-comers being placed in an overflow hotel. However it would be of great help to us if you could return the booking forms as soon as possible to the address given above.
- ** The main convention nights are the Friday, Saturday and Sunday (13th, 14th and 15th of April), but we have managed to secure convention room rates for the Thursday before and the Monday and Tuesday after for those interested.
- ** Whilst we hope that we can satisfy everyone's preferred bookings, it may be necessary to allocate people randomly to twin bedded rooms. Wherever possible, we will try to avoid this, but we will inform those who will be sharing at the time of confirmation. In addition, single rooms are strictly limited, so if we are over-subscribed on these, we may have to make alternative arrangements.

If there are any enquiries arising out of the points listed above, please write to the address given, enclosing a stamped s.a.e. and a reply will be given.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please write on each booking form YOUR NAME and CONVENTION NUMBER and any details about whom you may be sharing a twin room with if they are not writing separately. (This is just to help us with room allocation).

The 'in-tourist' Guide to LEEDS

Alan Dorey

Many people have many misconceptions about what Leeds is really like. I'd just like to take the opportunity to confirm a few of these:

There has always been a great concern for architecture and buildings in this noble city. Indeed, Kays - the mail order firm based in south Leeds - were in the forefront of this. Designing a building with a flat roof, it was decided that to prevent it having to be cleaned every now and again, that they'd cover it in a layer of soil. Neat move... but of course things started growing in the soil and so the clever remedy is to turf over the soil with grass. Yes, but grass needs cutting, and so they introduced sheep (so widespread in these parts) to merrily gambol across the roof, keeping the grass in check and occasionally falling through skylights onto the workers below. Further experiments with cows, haystacks, tractors, silos and complete pre-fabricated 'instant farm units' were abandoned.

Other notable constructions in Leeds include the Town Hall which was completed in 1859 when the money ran out. Plans for a third storey had to be scrapped, and it was a wise person who suggested that the impressive clock-tower be stuck onto the second level, giving that curious shape we put up with today. Indeed, one wonders what would have happened if they'd had to build it on top of a large cemetery wall as did the university authorities with one of their halls of residence.

Things the prospective tourist to Leeds would do well to remember include the fact that Tetley's is beer - not tea - and although it may look like tea, smell like it and taste like it, you can always go and drink Theakston's Old Peculiar.

Political meetings are held every other Saturday at Elland Road, and on occasions there are curtain raisers to the main events, such as Leeds United (remember them?) playing soccer against such glamourous sides as Pocklington Reserves, Knottingley Main East Colliery and Everton.

But Leeds is also the cultural centre of the North, with such attractions as Marsh Lane Railway Sidings (not mentioned by Karl Marx), Central Station Viaduct (not mentioned by John Braine in Room at the Top) and the pride of Yorkshire, the Leeds City Varieties (subject of Hitler's great unknown work, My! Camp!).

A major plus point about Leeds (and well worth dropping in discussions in bus queues the world over) is that Bingley is fairly near by, and that means that for the first time in ages, D West will be able to attend a convention without having to cadge the rail fare off anyone. He walks back.

Want something to do in the evenings? Well, Leeds is jam-packed with all-action events and star-venues in which to while away the hours. These night-spots include, Behind the Gothic Windows at Kirkstall Abbey, The Taproom of The Fenton, Leeds Polytechnic Discos and the Quiet Room at Leeds City Library. Other distractions (but not quite in the same league as those already mentioned) include Headingley Esso Filling Station, Horsforth Roundabout on the Ring Road and the Heaven & Hell disco in the city centre.

Leeds has a tremendous variety of Newspaper Sellers, each displaying their own individual characteristics and showing a remarkable diversification in the old Yorkshire custom of 'Selling T'Post'. The Green Post (produced on

Ian Williams continued.

As the Eastercons expanded, more people who attended had little to do with fandom and fanzines, to whom all this was irrelevant. The point is that until the Seventies, the convention attendees were nearly all fanzine fans, those who edited, wrote and drew for fanzines. Now who puts on conventions in Britain? With the exception of Novacon which is run by the Birmingham SF group, the organisers of the Eastercon and the two smaller social cons are the fanzine fans. They had to hold conventions which were more SF orientated, more professional, and where their interest had to be shunted to one side. They became a minority at their own events.

This inevitably has led to misconceptions on the part of many con-goers as to what fandom (especially the socially-orientated fannish fandom) is. There have been accusations of elitism and in-groups, both of which are wrong because they completely miss the point. I won't belabour this too much because it is a complex subject which I intend going into more deeply in the next progress report.

Science Fiction Fandom is about communication. It is about the communication of ideas on Science Fiction, on many general subjects, and about communication between fans, whether it is via the medium of a fanzine, via the programme at a convention, or on a personal level at cons, in group meetings, or in less formal social groups. It is an active, rather than a passive, interest. There are no barriers to joining. All it takes is a willingness to write or just to talk. It's also a hell of a lot of fun.

"Very interesting but stupid"



FANDOM, CHANGE & ONE OR TWO OTHER THINGS

Ian Williams

Science Fiction fandom had its origins in the United States in the early Thirties. Mainly teenage readers from all over the country began writing to the large and garish pulp SF magazines and got published in the letter columns. Some began writing to each other. They were even encouraged in this by the magazine editors, especially Hugo Gernsback. Clubs devoted to this new literature of 'scientific fiction' began to arise, and it wasn't long before the creative urge set in and amateur magazines began to be published. One of the earliest was Le Zombie by Wilson (Bob) Tucker. Fanzines caught on in this 'first' fandom and they proliferated. Mainly they were about SF, but not always serious. An idiosyncratic, tongue-in-cheek attitude peculiar to fandom arose early. International links were quickly set up with British fans like E J Carnell, Michael Rosenblum and Arthur C Clarke. Fanzines appeared in Britain quickly too.

The first SF conventions, as opposed to club meetings, began in the late Thirties, and the first British convention was held here in Leeds. The war caused a temporary hiatus, but at the end fandom was back in business and thriving like never before. By the Fifties, fandom was firmly established as a permanent sub-culture. One of the main attractions of fandom was the social aspect. Simply, fans liked each other and liked seeing each other as much as possible. Articles about visits to other fans became common in fanzines. Irish fandom became famous for these articles with their great style and wit, best exemplified by Walt Willis and Bob Shaw. Some fanzines eschewed much comment on SF, preferring to concentrate on these fannish articles.

The SF conventions - or cons - themselves began to grow in size, especially in the United States where the World conventions were attended by several hundred fans. In the Sixties, the numbers went into four figures and kept on growing. Regional cons became a popular, permanent fixture.

In Britain the situation was a little different. British fandom was considerably smaller and could, during the sixties, at least, only support one convention a year, the Eastercon. The attendances did grow during this decade but generally reached a maximum of only 150. This meant that most fans knew each other well, and that the Eastercons were small, informal affairs. The programme was light and contained much that was fandom - as opposed to SF - orientated.

It was only in the Seventies that things began to change and British fandom grew considerably. This encouraged the growth of sub-groups in fandom. It became far less homogenous as a result.

Let's sidetrack for a moment and look at the kinds of fanzines that exist. First there's the traditional staple of SF fandom, the serious and constructive fanzine which lives and breathes science fiction. It's the kind of fanzine most newcomers (neos) to fandom start off with, the kind they want to read, to publish. Then there's the genzine which has a wider variety of content such as SF material, con-reports, poetry, articles about art, music - virtually anything that interests the editor and his/her readers. As one gets more involved in fandom, the more appeal this kind has. The third type is the fannish fanzine which is primarily about fandom and fans. This kind of fanzine can be a bit disconcerting to a neo who may not have met any of the people involved. But generally the longer one is around fandom the more appeal the fannish fanzine has, especially when one starts to get mentioned.

Alan Dorey continued

Saturdays) is a useful reminder that Leeds has a local Irish community.

And finally, sport. Coming attractions for 1979 include the long awaited 'World-Setting-Eddie Waring's-Trousers-on-Fire-Championship'. This will be televised by the BBC and will replace Floodlit Rugby League next Tuesday night. Just around the corner from the rugby ground, in the Goat and Trumpet, Boycott-baiting will be taking place (the impersonating Eddie Waring competition for shouting 'well it's the early bath for him' has been cancelled due to a lack of Eddie Warings). This sport is held at regular intervals, generally every ten years or so. In the past it has been known as Close-baiting and Illingworth-baiting, but the latest variety is by far the biggest crowd-puller.

Well, I hope all this has whetted your appetites for Leeds this Easter, and even if it hasn't, you can always come and see what Leeds really has to offer. Besides, there is an Easter Science Fiction Convention going on, so I'm informed.

Committee members out on the town



S U P P O R T Y O U R F A N R O O M

A Fan room is only as good as the material it contains. I want the YORCON FAN HOSPITALITY ROOM to be as accurate a reflection of contemporary fandom as possible, so I'd be grateful for anyone sending me (or bringing to YORCON) the following items:

- ** Photographs of conventions (especially fancy dress events).
- ** Information about local groups and national organisations, conventions. It would be nice to have some sort of display from every group in the country, be it club, fannish or whatever.
- ** Artwork from Fanzines.
- ** Suggestions of what you think should be in a good fan-room.
- ** Fanzines.
- ** Anything else you might think useful.

Please send your items to:

Ian Williams, 6 Greta Terrace, Chester Road, SUNDERLAND, Tyne & Wear, SR4 7RD.

YORCON art show

The Artshow is aiming to be a showcase for original science fiction artwork. Contributions are welcome from anybody working in this area and most especially from those attending YORCON. We are hoping to present the show in an attractive manner on a thematic basis and produce a catalogue which will incorporate a voting form for the Artshow Competitions. Artwork may be offered for sale at YORCON but Convention Funds will claim a 10% commission on each sale.

Anyone wishing to exhibit work is invited to return the coupon below to us. If demand exceeds the space available, it may prove necessary to impose a limit on the number of works per person that can be displayed. Remember that space will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

We look forward to seeing both you and your work at YORCON.

Paul and Jan Matthews.

Name Registration Number

Address
.....

No. of Works

Size (Inches)
.....

Medium

Subject

Whether for Sale

YORCON ART SHOW 1979

Paul & Jan Matthews, 7 Hustlers Row, Meanwood, LEEDS LS6 4QH

YORCON bookroom

As usual we will be having a bookroom at YORCON where conventioneers will be able to divest themselves of huge sums of money in the happy knowledge that they are keeping that rare band of people, the dealers, alive and well.

Tables will be available for dealers, and have been located in the bookroom, a secure self-contained room, with the added attraction of an adjacent bar for those that require refreshment before parting with their life's savings. A large store room leading off the book room has been put at our disposal, and this will allow dealers with plenty of space in which to dump their stocks.

** A provisional limit of FOUR tables per dealer will be made, although this may be subject to alteration when potential demand is known. Unless dealers book tables beforehand, we cannot provide any additional space.

** Tables are bookable for a charge of £7 each. The tables are six feet long and substantially built, to support the weight of ~~m~~ any books.

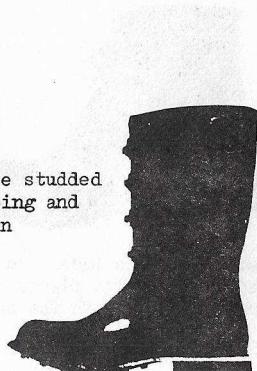
An auction will be held at the convention in aid of TAFF (the Transatlantic Fan Fund - paying for an American Fan to attend this year's World Convention in Brighton) and other worthy causes. Any material for the auction (such as books, magazines etc) will be gratefully received by the committee at the convention.

Guide to Convention Footwear



Hunter - lightweight rubber boot for
trudging round in search of that
Amazing, and those intimate moments
at home

The all-purpose boot - note studded
soles, for trudging, stomping and
generally hanging around in



ADVERTISING RATES AND DETAILS

Although there is still three months to go before the convention, our advertising deadlines are approaching quickly. Thus, if you would like to take advantage of our final Progress Report and the Convention Book, please let us have a copy as soon as possible.

All copy sent for inclusion in either Progress Report 4 or the Convention Book itself must be camera-ready and Black on White. We are sorry, but we cannot accept any orders for colour printing. No copy should exceed size A4, and if size A4 is requested, please ensure that there are sufficient margins surrounding the ad. All copy will be reduced by 50% for printing, thus size A4, will become size A5 and so on.

RATES:

PROFESSIONAL: Convention Book (Deadline FEBRUARY 28th 1979)

Full Page: £20 Half Page: £12 Quarter Page: £7

Progress Report 4 (Deadline JANUARY 30th 1979)

Full Page: £8 Half Page: £4.50 Quarter Page: £2.75

FAN/AMATEUR: Convention Book (Deadline FEBRUARY 28th 1979)

Full Page: £13 Half Page: £7 Quarter Page: £4

Progress Report 4 (Deadline JANUARY 30th 1979)

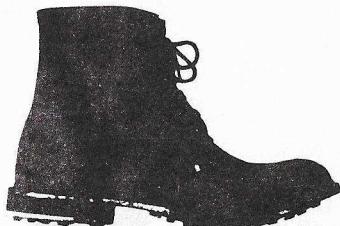
Full Page: £5 Half Page: £3 Quarter Page: £2

If half-tone printing is required please add £1 to each page or part-page requested.

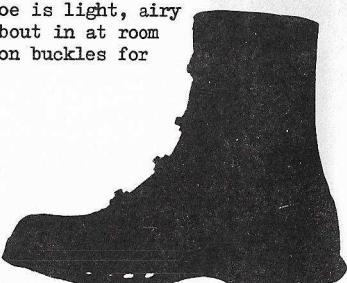
All copy (with pre-payment if possible please - cheques made out to YORCON) should be sent to:

Mike Dickinson, Flat 7, 301 Chapeltown Road, LEEDS LS7 3JT

If there are any specific printing requirements, please get in touch at the above address and we will give you a quote.



Buckler - this natty shoe is light, airy and ideal for loafing about in at room parties, note fast action buckles for quick release



Gamesman - the ideal con boot - hard and stylish with plenty of grip for pushing through to the bar

Additional Information

Our final Progress Report which will be sent out during March should include maps and a city-centre guide to Leeds itself. Travel to Leeds will also be detailed and we hope to provide a restaurant/pub guide too. PAT & GRAHAM CHARNOCK (our fan guests of honour) will be writing a piece for inclusion next time round, and the convention book itself is shaping up fairly well, Chris Priest having written a fine piece on our GUEST OF HONOUR, RICHARD COWPER.

If you should want any further details, or wish to ask specific questions, please write to:

Alan Dorey, 20 Hermitage Woods Crescent, St John's, WOKING, Surrey,
GU21 1UE.

It would be a help if you could give your convention number in all correspondence.

CONVENTION MEMBERS: (List correct to December 10th 1978)

172	Kevin Dixon	194	Patrick Place	216	John Stainton
173	Peter Berg	195	Neil Thompson	217	Mark Lainchbury
174	Miss L Thomas	196	Robert L Sanders	218	Alun Harries
175	Kevin Pender	197	Robin Hill	219	Julian Headlong
176	Paul Ryan	198	Penny Lansel	220	Lawrence Dean
177	Hans Loose	199	Norman Shorrock	221	Lee Montgomerie
178	Richard Van Der Voort	200	Ina Shorrock	222	Laurie Britton
179	Marion Van Der Boort	201	Neil Craig	223	A G Prior
180	Paul Oldroyd	202	Bob Jewett	224	E Y Alden
181	Clive Telford	203	Ivan Griggs	225	Ethel Lindsay
182	Andar Strangeways	204	J A Burnett	226	Charlotte Bulmer
183	Brian Smith	205	Dave Cox	227	Keith Oborn
184	Brian Ameringen	206	Simon Ounsley	228	Christine Pearson
185	Anne Sutherland	207	Graham James	229	Martyn Morgan
186	Harry Nadler	208	Jimmy Robertson	230	Michie Takahashi
187	Charles Partington	209	Dave Lemrit	231	John Foster
188	Harry Newton	210	David Row	232	George Bondar
189	Cherry Newton	211	Bernie Peek	233	Mike Llewellyn
190	Philip Barnard	212	C M Easthill	234	Chris Holmes
191	Ron Bounds	213	Kenneth Harker	235	Sam Lundwall
192	Bobbi Armbruster	214	Paul C Wilson	236	June Fergen
193	June McGaw	215	Steven Waites		

REGISTRATION is £2.50 supporting and £5 attending. Please use the coupon below:

REGISTRATION COUPON

Please register me for Supporting/Attending (delete as appropriate) membership. I enclose £..... (Cheques payable to YORCON).

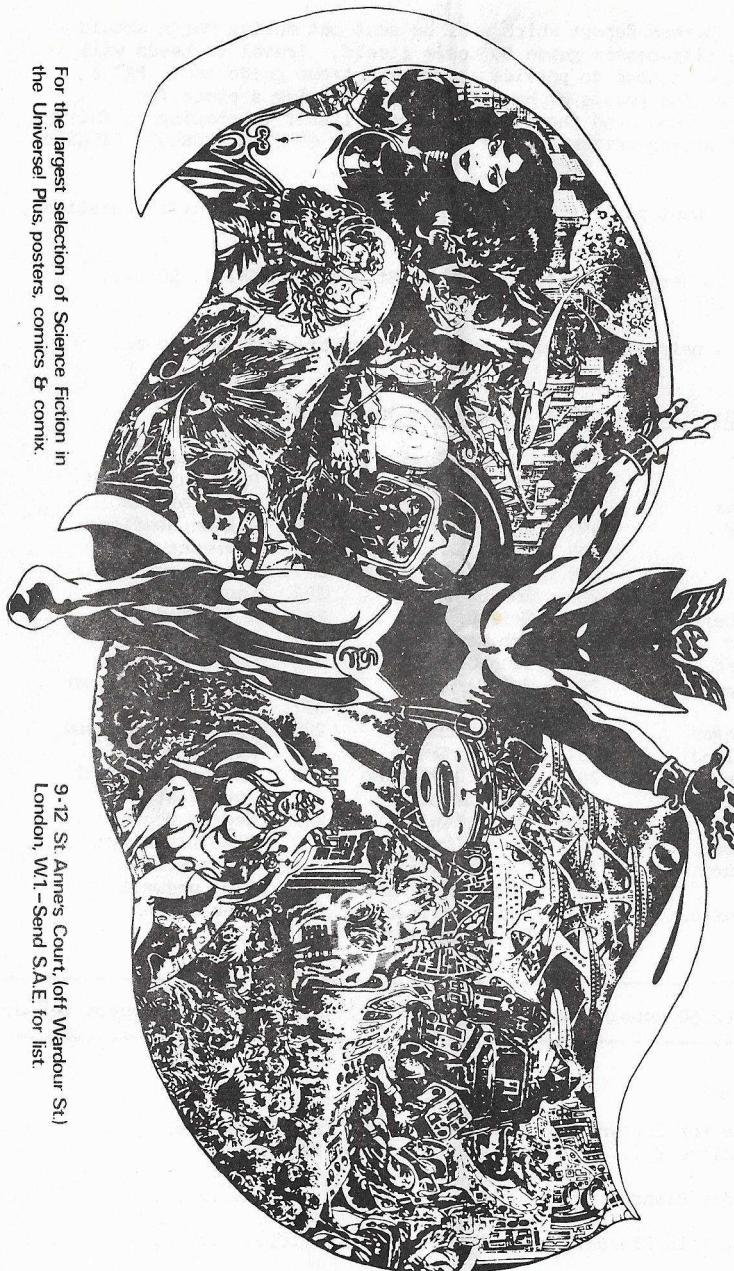
Name (Block Capitals Please)

Address (Block Capitals Please)

.....

SEND TO: Alan Dorey
C/O 20 Hermitage Woods Crescent
St Johns
WOKING. Surrey. GU21 1UE.

**DARK THEY WERE
AND GOLDEN EYED**



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the Universe! Plus, posters, comics & comic.

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London, W1 - Send S.A.E. for list.